



Black to the Future Public Policy Institute

2020 Overview and Call for Applications

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About the Black to the Future Public Policy Institute

The Black Futures Lab (BFL) and the Black to the Future Action Fund works to make Black communities powerful in politics. The problems Black communities face are complex; the solutions to those problems require imagination, experimentation, and Black political power. The Black Futures Lab designs strategies that help us imagine the alternatives we deserve and builds the capacity of Black serving organizations to build Black political power; the Black to the Future Action Fund builds electoral power at the local, state and national level to implement those alternatives.

Black to the Future Public Policy Institute (Institute) is a shared program of the Black Futures Lab and the Black to the Future Action Fund. The Institute is a policy advocacy and leadership training fellowship that provides the tools needed to transform Black communities into constituencies that wield independent, Black political power at the municipal, state, and federal level.

We work to enact policies that improve the lives of Black people. We work to ensure that Black people have what all people deserve—dignity, safety, and power. We work to ensure that governance in our communities is race-forward, guided by the orientation that government is responsible for addressing the challenges in our communities, and we work to ensure that the solutions we advocate for are progressive solutions that move our communities forward.

As we scale up our training and policy work, we are committed to building the capacity of our communities to make legislative and policy interventions that advance Black people and our futures. The COVID pandemic has made policy advocacy for Black people even more important – the disproportionate health impacts of COVID on Black communities are alarming, and the structural barriers that were present before the crisis that caused economic harm is disproportionate to and exacerbated in Black communities. The public policies that historically and contemporarily harm Black communities can and must be challenged during this time.

Institute Goal: Advance a just response for black communities in the face of a health pandemic and economic disaster.

Institute Focus: During this time of a global pandemic and the economic shut-down of much of the country, policy advocacy will need to be creative, flexible, and community-based. Besides the traditional forms of policy – legislation, budget, and regulations – now is the time to be focused on:

1. Ensuring greater access to recovery policies that address the impact of the pandemic (for example, small business support for black businesses, access to economic supports for black families, etc.)
2. Reducing disproportionate negative impact of policy actions to address the pandemic (for example, ensuring that Black communities are not impacted at a greater level by social control policies)
3. Policy changes to address the pandemic that could lay the groundwork for ongoing positive changes after the pandemic (for example, early prison release, improving access to voting by mail, etc.)

Institute Policy Areas: BFL will first train Black organizers from around the country in local, state, and federal government legislative, budget, and regulatory policy. These training sessions will take place online over five months. Fellows, in teams or on their own, will then create and begin implementing campaigns in one of three areas of public policy:

- 1. Our Democracy/Voting Rights:** confronting those who conspire to steal our votes, protecting and building the democracy that is promised to us all.
- 2. Our Families/Public Health and Healthcare:** challenging the policies and practices that leave us living sick and dying younger, protecting and delivering the care that we need to live long and live well.
- 3. The Economy/Economic Security:** removing policies that lock us out of good jobs and investing in the health and wealth of our communities.



Application Eligibility

- ✓ The Institute is specifically for members of Black communities who are already involved in organized efforts to improve the lives of Black communities.
- ✓ Black cisgender and transgender individuals, non-binary and genderqueer people are encouraged to apply. Black migrants, Black people who are formally incarcerated, Black people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.
- ✓ Applicants must be sponsored by an Organization – “Organization Sponsor.” The sponsor can be an institution, formal or informal organization or nonprofit. It can be a for-profit, non-profit, or government group. The applicant can be a paid staff member or volunteer associated with the organization.
- ✓ Black individuals living in the United States may apply; priority will be given to individuals from these states: CA, FL, GA, AL, LA, MS, NV, IL, TX, and WI.
- ✓ Individuals who apply as a team, in coalition with others, or who demonstrate their ability to form a coalition to create and engage in a policy advocacy campaign, will be given priority in their application.

Institute Details

- 1 ½ hour webinars will take place 10am-11:30 PT / 1pm-2:30 ET each Wednesday starting on July 15th and ending on December 2nd, 2020. These sessions are required for all participants in the Institute.
- Trainings are led by BFL/B2FAF staff, national policy experts and guest trainers.

- Reading and homework will be assigned in advance of each webinar.
- Participants are expected to work throughout the Institute to create a policy advocacy campaign of their choosing to be initiated in January 2021.

What is the schedule for the Institute?

May 18, 2020 - Application Opens

May 27, 2020 - How to Apply Webinar at (10am-11:30 PT, 11am-12:30pm MT, 12pm-1:30 PT, 1pm-2:30 ET)

June 3, 2020 - How to Apply Webinar at (10am-11:30 PT, 11am-12:30pm MT, 12pm-1:30 PT, 1pm-2:30 ET)

June 12, 2020 – Online Application Deadline at 5pm PST!

July 6, 2020 - Announce class

July 15, 2020 to December 2, 2020 - TRAINING BEGINS!
Weekly Webinars on Wednesdays (10am-11:30pm PT, 11am-12:30pm MT, 12pm-1:30 CT, 1pm-2:30 ET)

January 2021 - Campaign support/mentoring.

What training sessions will be included in the Institute?

Weekly Webinars will be held on Wednesdays (10am-11:30pm PT, 11am-12:30pm MT, 12pm-1:30 CT, 1pm-2:30 ET). See exact dates and topics below.

Program Orientation

Session 1 (July 15): Program & Cohort Introductions

Session 2 (July 22): Black Futures Lab and Black to the Future Action Fund, Black Power & Our Collective Dreams

Policy Making Overview

Session 3 (July 29): Nuts & Bolts of How & Who at the State & Federal Level

Session 4 (August 5): Nuts & Bolts of How & Who at the Local Level

Policy History

Session 5 (August 12): Democracy, Voting and Black Communities

Session 6 (August 19): The Economy and Black Communities

Session 7 (August 26): Public Health/Healthcare and Black Communities

Policy Today

Session 8 (September 2): Policy Making Landscape: From the View of a Policy Maker

Session 9 (September 9): COVID & Policy: Recovery Acts & Programs and Black Communities

Session 10 (September 16): Policy Opportunities During Crisis

Session 11 (September 23): Anti-Oppression in Policy Advocacy

Building Your Policy Fight

Session 12 (September 30): Research Policy Issues and Ideas

Session 13 (October 7): Power Analysis: Strategy Development & Tracking Tool

Session 14 (October 14): Campaign Planning

Session 15 (October 21): Strategy & Compromise (Allies, Alliances & Coalitions)

Session 16 (October 28): Messaging & Narrative

Session 17 (November 4): How to Write for Policy Makers & Manage Policy Meetings

Creating Policies of the Future

Session 18 (November 11): Campaign Idea Presentations & Feedback

Session 19 (November 18): Campaign Idea Presentations & Feedback

Session 20 (December 2): Next Steps and Appreciations

What can participants expect to learn in the Institute?

- Nuts and bolts of local, state, and federal policy making
- Historical analysis of policies that have targeted Black communities
- COVID recovery policies and the impact on Black communities
- Developing policy campaigns
- Overcoming personal barriers and increasing confidence in leading policy efforts
- Building and leveraging power within the policy process
- Shared wisdom from peers engaged in co-learning and co-creation of justice focused policies
- Strengthening relationships and collaboration with social justice organizations and within movements

What are the attendance requirements?

Participation in at least 80% of live webinar sessions is mandatory for participants and their sponsoring organization to be eligible to receive monthly stipends and to apply for 2021

campaign support. Training webinars will be recorded to allow participants to take missed sessions.

What is the financial commitment?

- The Institute is offered free of charge.
- Organizational sponsors will be given a monthly stipend for the individual they are sponsoring to cover a portion of their paid staff time or if the participant is a volunteer, to provide a stipend to a volunteer participant.
- Participants will be required to participate in the program using a computer and internet access. If you do not have access to a computer/internet access, we have a “loaner” program that will include equipment and internet access.
- Increased organizational support will be offered for participants creating and engaging in policy campaigns expected to commence in early 2021.



Application Criteria

Successful applicants will demonstrate the following:

1. Depth of Issue Expertise

- Individuals and their sponsoring organization ; the areas of Democracy, Public Health/Healthcare, and/or the Economy/Economic Security.

2. Commitment to Policy Advocacy Work

- Individuals and their sponsoring organization must be able to show the value of learning about policy for themselves, their organization and community;
- Individuals must demonstrate their connections to their larger community, including other individuals also applying and individuals/organizations who are committed to collaborating on a policy campaign.

3. Organizational Support

- Individuals (paid staff or volunteer) must demonstrate that they have the full support of an organization to sponsor their participation in the Institute and that the organization is committed to policy advocacy;
- Individuals must demonstrate their ability (time and organizational support) to participate in the webinars in 2020 and a policy campaign in 2021

Application Guidelines

Applications must be submitted through this online link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BTTFPPI>

Each applicant must complete and submit an online Application by **June 12, 2020 at 5pm PST**.

Below are all the questions you will be asked in the application. It's safest to start and complete the application in one sitting which is why we are **including all the questions in this document so you can prepare your answers**.

Contact Data: You will be asked to answer the following short questions:

1. Your first and last name, state or US territory you currently work in, email address, and phone numbers.
2. The sponsoring organization's name and website, plus the name, email and work phone of your supervisor,
3. Your role (paid or volunteer) and title/position with the sponsor organization,
4. Can you confirm that you will be able to attend all or most of the webinars?
5. Names and organizational affiliations of others who are applying who you intend to work with.
6. Names and organizational affiliations of others who are NOT applying but who you intend to work with.

Demographics: You will be asked the answer the following demographic questions:

1. This Institute is for individuals who are from Black communities. You will be asked to confirm your racial identity.
2. What is/are your gender identity/ies?
3. What are your gender pronouns?
4. Do you identify as a member of the transgender community?
5. What is/are your sexual orientation(s)
6. What is your age?
7. What is your experience with the criminal justice system?

Narrative Questions: The questions are listed below so that you can prepare your answers ahead of time, if you wish, using a word processing software (like Microsoft Word) and then cut and paste into the online application form. Please keep all answers to 300 words.

1. **Tell us about yourself:** Tell us a bit about your history - your work, your activism, your personal life.
2. **Organizational sponsorship and support:** All applicants must be sponsored by an Organization listed on page one of your application. Describe the mission of the sponsoring organization and how you will work in the organization to both share what you are learning and how the organization will participate in a policy advocacy campaign. Explain the value of your learning about policy for your sponsoring organization and your community. (If you are a volunteer with the sponsoring organization, please explain how you are able to participate in webinars that are held during the day).
3. **Depth of issue expertise:** Describe how you and your sponsoring organization are currently engaged in any of the three areas of focus for this Institute: Democracy/ Voting Rights, Public Health/Healthcare, and/or the Economy/Economic Security.
4. **Team/coalition building:** Describe your experiences working on a team or in a coalition. Describe your relationship to the individuals you listed as possible coalition partners (those applying to the Institute and not applying).
5. How did you hear about the Institute?

Special Thanks: Thanks to the Women's Foundation of California for their permission to use portions of the Women's Policy Institute and the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment at the University of California San Francisco for their permission to use portions of the Reach the Decision Makers program.

Apply



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